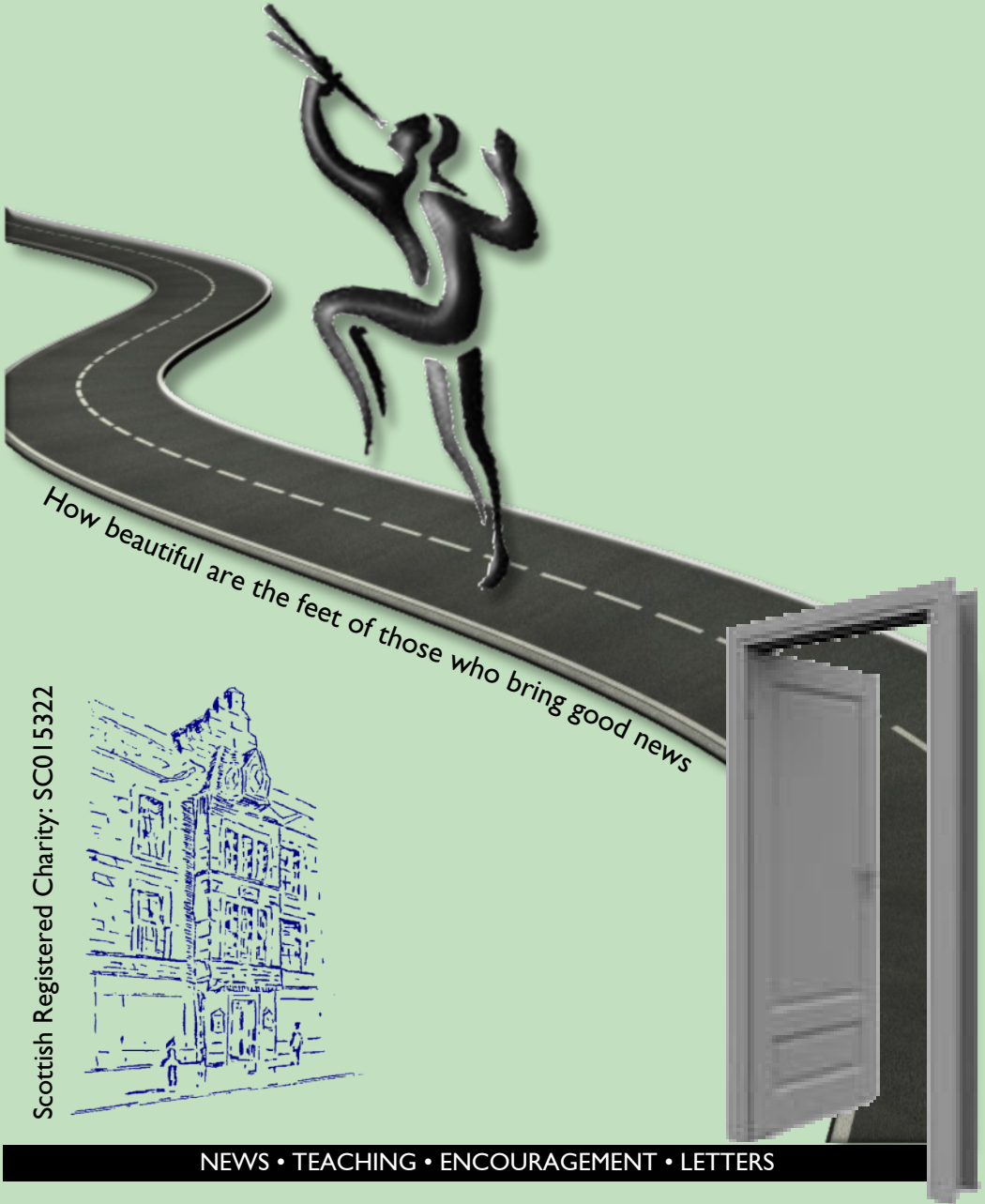


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • May 2014



Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322

NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

		Tues	10.30 a.m.	Weekly Hour of Prayer [drop-in for all or part of the time]
		Wed	07.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
May	13th	Tues	07.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	22nd	Thurs	07.30 p.m.	Vision Action Group
	29th	Thurs	07.30 p.m.	Quarterly Business Meeting
June	13th	Fri	07.30 p.m.	Cafe Church (see buzz for further details)
	22nd	Sun	06.00 p.m.	Half Night of Prayer (see buzz for details)

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

May	4th	– “Revolution of love”
	11th	– “Cross carrying for beginners”
	18th	– “World Changers”
	25th	– “Watch this space”
June	1st	– “The Revolution Spreads”
	8th	– “Power to the people”
	15th	– “How good is your hearing?” Matthew Ch 13 vv 1 – 13
	22nd	– “Transformed!” Matthew Ch 13 vv 24 – 36
	29th	– “Risky Living” Matthew Ch 13 vv 44 – 50

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

May	04th	Rev Al Nicoll: Forces Chaplain - RAF Dedridge, Livingston; Dennistoun Baptist Church, Glasgow
	11th	Rev Adam Plenderleith: Chaplain, (Glasgow Royal Infirmary) Denny; Drumchapel
	18th	Rev Jack Quinn, Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland Dumbarton; Dumfries; Duncan Street, Edinburgh
	25th	Rev Jim Simpson: Chaplain, Royal Cornhill Hospital, Aberdeen Dundee Central; Dunfermline West; Dunoon

APRIL OFFERING

£215.00 – April Cafe Day
for Jericho House



6th	£599.00	20th	£747.00
13th	£873.00	27th	£700.00

Building Fund total, so far :- £8,843.68

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me ... ’” (Luke Ch. 9 v 23)

A man in the USA conducted a survey asking "if there were a fire, what valuable thing would you grab?" Here are some of the answers he received

- One husband, one son, and three cats
- My daughter – everything else can be replaced
- A few packs of favourite green tea in case I'm thirsty
- My grandfather's Bible
- Ernest Hemingway's selected letters
- iPhone 4
- Wallet
- Purse
- Very old teddy bear of my childhood
- Moleskin journal which contains all of my thoughts and ideas
- House key, because you need it, even though your house is burning
- My globe to always remind me of all the places I dream of seeing
- flip flops, a bikini and a skirt
(because if my house burns down, I'm going to the beach)

I wonder what your valuables would be?

As a church, we are asking, "What is valuable to us?" "What is indispensable to the life of this church?" We have come up with four values – "Worship, Fellowship, Mission and Discipleship". This means we need to look at our worship and prayer life – am I enriched each day in my walk with Christ? Our fellowship – am I living in fellowship with my brother/ sister? Are there things I need to put right or forgive? Our Mission – Am I living a life which attracts people to Jesus. And Discipleship – am I growing in my walk of Christ-likeness?

As we take these values seriously, our life individually and our life together will flourish and grow.

Your Pastor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Smith". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

We continue to remember, in prayer, all those who have been so faithful in the service of the Church and are no longer able to worship with us:



PRAYING FOR THE FLOCK

(1 Thess. 5:17; Acts 6.4)



Each month this new section will include a cluster of names taken from the Church Directory so that we can uphold them particularly in prayer over this month.

(Eph 6:18) "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints"

FLOWER CALENDER

If you would like to add your name to any blank space then please see either Allistair or Ewan



4th
M 11th
A 18th
Y 25th

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the church on our retirement from cleaning duties. Many thanks to Winnie for her lovely speech and presentation. Also to Tom for the kiss Bett received as he presented the beautiful bouquet of flowers. Love and many blessings to you all.

(Bill & Bett)

UPDATE FROM ZAMBIA

(Rec'd April 2014)

Dear Friends,

It seems such a short time since January and April has just passed already. Time flies when you are having fun, or are very busy. I hope you have had a good start to the New Year, I seem to have hit the ground running.

Term 2 at school is packed with Mock exams, mid-year exams, report writing and parents' nights. It has



been non-stop. Thankfully all went well and we are now on holiday. I accompanied the Grade 8s on a trip to Lower Zambezi for five days, just before the holiday. They learnt about nature – scorpions, snakes,

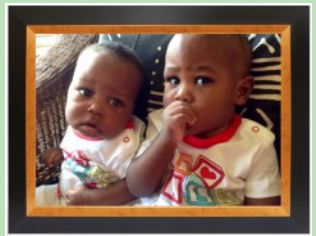


tiger fish, hippos and crocs all sighted - as well as taking part in team building and

Leadership activities. It was a good time to get to know them better and build relationships. My Life skills lessons are good for getting to know the children better too. We learned last week about what it means to “Do unto others as you would have them do to you” and to “love your neighbour as you love yourself”. We all agreed it is not easy, but it’s worth it.

A good number of girls have been putting this into practice at the Adoption Centre, being dedicated to visiting the children on a Tuesday

afternoon. They have been taking along skin creams as well as treats, in the form of



lollipops and giggies (crisps) which the children love. The Craft materials given by my Sunday school are a huge hit and the kids have enjoyed sticking stickers everywhere, decorating masks, making faces with big googly eyes and sticking tissue paper onto foam people to dress them. Great fun. Lucia has had several outbreaks of bad eczema, we’re not sure the cause, but it seems to be under control now. Davison had malaria and has recovered well. Elvis has a little brother to keep him company in the baby room. Gift came to the centre at about 6 weeks. He has been putting on weight and growing and Elvis has started to walk. It is such a shame that there is no mum to mark the progress in these precious children, although the house mums



do a good job. Please pray for these children.

Sitongua has been serving at a ministry called 'Seeds of Hope' where he has been leading devotions every day and visiting some of the poorer communities to teach about water use and how to keep it clean. He has started outreach work to the local Somali community with some workers from OM. Sport is a good way to get the young men interested and start building relationships and they had a football game last week. Pray for him as he works with this people group. This week he was able to participate in a seminar on reaching out to other faiths. I joined in the last session and found it very interesting with practical advice on good questions to start a conversation.

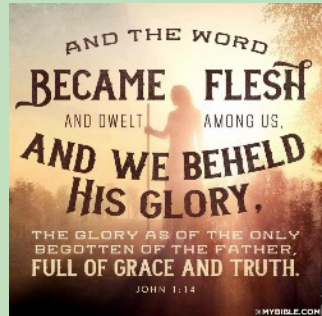
Our church holds a Sunday service at a local girls' secondary school. There are about 600 girls who board there and around 70 come to our Sunday service. Sitongua was preaching there recently and I went along for the first

time. It is such an opportunity to be able to teach these girls about God and his love for them, especially at this age. Pray that God would speak to hearts and that there would be a real change in lives.

Meanwhile, Ndola continues to develop. The latest arrival is an escalator in a new shopping mall. It's the first escalator in Ndola. Never ones to let an opportunity pass, you can have your photograph taken as you glide up and down, a memento to remember your bravery. Thanks for all your prayers and keeping in touch as we head into winter in Ndola. Every blessing to you all.

Love

Lynne & Sitongua



VISITOR RESPONSE

I am a visitor and would like

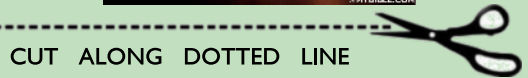
- Information about the Church
- A visit from the Minister
- Information about becoming a Christian

PLEASE FILL IN YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BELOW
and either place in the offering bag, hand to a steward or post to
189 Portobello High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU

NAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL:





SEND A MESSAGE TO GRIEVING FAMILY MEMBERS

As the weeks wear on, the families of the more than 200 girls kidnapped in Borno, Nigeria cry out in desperation for their rescue and safe return. Join Christians in Chibok, Nigeria in praying fervently for the release of all of the abducted girls. Please consider the following prayer points, and then send a brief message of hope. Your messages will be hand-delivered to grieving family members.

- Please pray for God's grace to cover the captive girls as they struggle to survive in these fearful circumstances. Pray that they will experience His nearness and love in the midst of their suffering.
- Pray for God's miraculous protection for the girls.
- "Cries of parents could be heard all over the town as parents prayed for God's intervention in their tragic circumstances," reported OPEN DOORS workers. Pray for God's comfort to fill the hearts of the distraught parents.
- Observers have been increasingly pointing to the Nigerian security forces' inadequate handling of the Boko Haram crisis. Please pray for extraordinary grace and wisdom as they consider possible ways to free

the girls. Also pray for diligence and courage in continuing their efforts. Please pray that they will seek and receive wise counsel from others who are more experienced in these kinds of situations.

- Please pray for God to work through His Holy Spirit to produce compassion for their prisoners in the hearts of the Boko Haram (which means "*Western education is a sin*") abductors.

In May of last year the Nigerian government announced a state of emergency in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states in an effort to bring the Boko Haram insurgency to an end. A year later, insecurity in these states continues unabated. Please pray for government officials as they consider strategies for handling the Boko Haram crisis. Pray also that they would receive local and international support in dealing with the problem.

Please pray for God's grace to cover the Church throughout Northern Nigeria, and specifically in Borno as they respond to their tragic circumstances. Pray that they will be encouraged by the knowledge that the worldwide Body of Christ is united with them in prayer at this difficult time. "Pray that the Church's spirit of faith and endurance amid the continuing hardship will not be broken."

If you wish to show solidarity with the Christians in Chibok, let them know that you are praying by sending a brief, encouraging e-mail to Prayer@ODUSA.org.